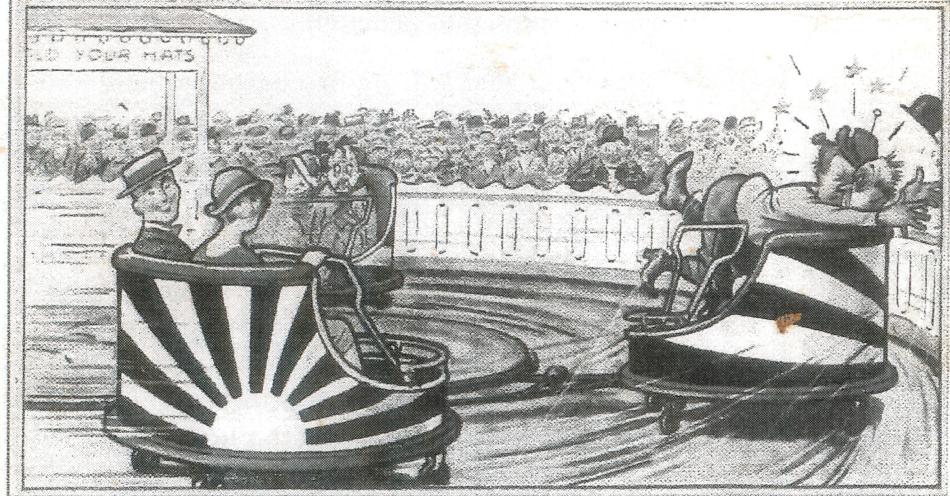


MECHANICAL MEMORIES MAGAZINE

ISSUE 28

OCT. 2008

IF YOU WANT A GOOD SHAKING, COME AND GO ON
THE WHIP ON THE PLEASURE BEACH
AT BLACKPOOL!



The only UK magazine dedicated to vintage coin-op

Mechanical Memories Magazine

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Editorial

Hello again. Now, as I don't really have anything particularly meaningful to write here, I'm going to try to sell you something! To be honest, I had intended writing a short feature later on in the mag., but as there was no room, I'll do it here.

Do you have a Saxony or British allwin with a Saxony type ball release? Does the ball release work first time every time? Does it work at all? If not, I have the solution. This system of ball release can be problematic, as the pawl part of the lever wears to the point that it does not advance the ratchet wheel properly. Many years ago when I was producing allwin spares, I had intended manufacturing these ball release levers, but decided against it, as I judged that to be viable they would have to be made in fairly large numbers. To the best of my knowledge, no one else has ever reproduced them either. Until now! Perversely, it's taken an American to bite the bullet.

Talking to John Peterson a few months back, he told me that he had quite a large quantity manufactured as he needed a few for some of his machines. Not surprisingly, there is no great market for Saxony ball release levers over in America, so by arrangement with John, I now have them for sale over here. They were produced from a lever taken from a Whales machine, but I have tried one in three different machines and it seems to be a standard size. They are very well produced, with a pivoting bush fitted, so all that is required is a twist in the lever to suit the machine to which it is fitted.

I strongly advise you snap them up now! When they're gone, they're gone – I doubt anyone will ever reproduce these again. See page 21 for details.

Well, that's about it for now, can't think of anything else. Oh yes, the 30th November....
Get those entry forms in now!

Till next time

All the best

Jerry

News and Coming Events

Dreamland

Back in May, I reported on the fire of 7th April, which destroyed part of the historic Scenic Railway at Dreamland, Margate. Work was due to commence on 29th September to start clearing the damaged parts of the structure. Before removal, all parts will be photographed and measured, and all mechanical parts will be securely stored to ensure the ride can be faithfully and accurately restored. I shall update in the coming months as further news becomes available.

On a brighter note, the Dreamland Trust has now secured the acquisition of the whip that has been operating at Blackpool Pleasure Beach since 1914. It is hoped that Dreamland can eventually reopen as a Heritage park, and the whip (the last operating in this country) will be an important asset. The original Dreamland whip was my favourite ride as a boy, and I remember my horror when one year (sometime in the late '60s), I arrived at Dreamland to find it had gone. Actually, the track and running gear were still there, but the cars had been removed, and the track was being used for battery-operated kiddies dodgems.....bloody philistines!



The Whip at Blackpool Pleasure Beach in 2005. Picture courtesy Nick Laister.

Joby Carter's Auction

This looks like it's going to be a good one for fairground enthusiasts. By the time you read this the closing date for entries will have passed, and although I do not have the full list of lots, there is plenty to suit all tastes and interests. Fairground lots include: full-size Anderson double seater horse; juvenile Anderson horses, Sooner centaur, 31 keyless McCarthy organ; c1908 Halstead toy set, plus a number of other juveniles; speedway motorbike; living vans, pedal cars etc. Slot machines on offer include: a number of allwins, Bryans Clock, fortune telling weighing scales, Jennings Club Chief, Mills Black Cherry, Mills Blue Bird; Aristocrat, Bally and Sega bandits; mutoscope reels, including one of Charlie Chaplin. The star of the show is a Mathewson grip tester.

Further details and updates, plus pictures of some of the lots submitted can be viewed at www.cartersentertainment.com. For enquiries phone 07767 870775 or email info@cartersentertainment.com. Viewing is available on Saturday 25th October and on the morning of sale.

Dates for your diary

Jukebox Madness 25th & 26th October
Kempton Park racecourse

Joby Carter's Auction of Fairground related items 26th October
White Waltham, Berkshire

Chicagoland Show 14th – 16th November
Illinois, USA

Bonhams Fine Mechanical Music Sale 18th November
Knightsbridge

MMM Vintage Slot Collectors' Show & Auction 30th November
Coventry

Brighton Jukebox Show 18th & 19th April 2009
Brighton Racecourse

Coventry 08

Sunday 30th November is the big one! Now established as the biggest vintage coin-op event in the UK, our Central England show and auction is not to be missed. Jeremy has booked the Coundon club again, as I think everyone agreed it was a very pleasant venue. Entry forms are included in the magazine this month, so please return them by the closing date of 10th Nov. I really do want to avoid late entries this time, so please get them in as soon as possible. Please also try to include pictures of all machines entered – either by returning with the entry form, or emailing separately. As many as possible will be included in the catalogue, and in addition, we're hoping we will be able to post all pictures on the pennymachines website.

This year we're going to raise the catalogue cover price to £5 – but fear not, MMM subscribers will still be charged £4 as previous (when paid in advance). I've done this in an attempt to discourage people from turning up on the day expecting to buy a catalogue on the door, as it's very difficult to judge the print run this way. It will also enable me to list the catalogues on ebay at £5, thus recovering the extortionate fees. It has been a little annoying in the past when most of the catalogues sold on ebay have gone to subscribers of this magazine, who could just as easily have ordered directly from me. If you wish to pay by Paypal, simply make the £4 payment to my email address.

Once again, we will be allowing children to attend, as I don't think there have been any problems at the last two events. As I've stated previously, I do think it is important that we encourage children to take an interest in our hobby, as they are potentially the next generation of collectors. Same rules apply as previous: no small children, toddlers or babies; parents to supervise their children at all times, and please let me know in advance that you will be bringing children.

We're hoping to raise the profile of this event with local media coverage. A fellow collector has offered to help us with this, and I'm sure his contacts in the media industry (particularly radio and TV) will be invaluable. The importance of creating more public awareness about our interest in vintage machines is, I'm sure, understood by us all, so with the right exposure we might see some long-term benefits.

So, please get those entry forms in; order your catalogue and.....

See you on the 30th Nov.

Central England Vintage Coin-op Collectors' Show and Auction

Sunday 30th November
Coundon Social Club, Coventry CV6 1GP

Entries now invited for all vintage coin-operated
amusement machines, vending machines,
gumball machines, books & paperwork,
fairground artwork & memorabilia,
old advertising etc.

Buyers and sellers premium just 6%

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A Grand Day Out

(Without the Wensleydale cheese)

By Richard Goddard

It was that time of year again when my wife Sally and I ventured up north to make our annual visit to spend a pleasant weekend with Sally's sister and her husband Pete in Preston. Hum..... Preston I thought, isn't that near Southport, and isn't Southport where they have that pier; which takes about 2 days of brisk walking to reach the end, and isn't that where Clive Baker's Pier Arcade is? I wondered if there would be time to visit, *purely for research reasons of course*, or so I would try to convince my dearly beloved.

So without further ado I opened my trusty road atlas at page one-hundred-and-Preston, or something like that, and hey presto! Southport is only a mere two inches away, or about 20 miles from where we were staying; a slotties opportunity certainly not to be missed. But wait a minute! How can I escape for a couple or three hours, it would seem pretty rude to leave our hosts, I would need to think about that.

We arrived in Preston on Friday evening mentally bedraggled and exhausted from a 200 mile journey that only the modern motorway can inflict, and of course the Highways Agency mentality of '*now let's see how much time these road cones will delay*'. In fact we only saw about two thousand cones and no workers, so I suppose they were waiting for another delivery. However, a decent gin and tonic later and the topic of what to do over the weekend came up. "Well I hear there are some decent shops in Southport" said I..... Two pairs of female eyes lit up, so I added with hopeful anticipation "Yes, and I think there maybe a few old slot machines on the pier so Pete and I could meet up with you girls later." "That sounds like a good idea." said Pete, without any prompting. Things were going too well.

Saturday morning arrived and somewhat to my childish glee, we set off for Southport, (I must have had quite a few brownie points banked somewhere down the line), I could not believe my luck! We arrived in Southport and arranged to meet up with the girls 'sometime later', (ah the mobile phone can be useful sometimes). Being a lovely English July day we of course took our winter wind-proof and rainproof jackets and headed for the pier.

According to my recollections of the article that appeared way back in Mechanical Memories Magazine, the arcade is at the end of the pier. So we set off down to the end, encountering something akin to a force 10 gale. Blimey that pier is long! especially when your head is down and body bent forward into the howling blustery wind cutting over the pier, all you see for three quarters of a mile is timber decking, timber decking, and yet more flipping timber decking! Oh, and hundreds and hundreds of acres of sand each side

the pier..... the tide was out. (I wonder if Southport is twinned with Weston Super Mare?). There was a train to assist the young and infirm, but Pete and I are men not kids; at least until we get into the arcade, and so this certainly wouldn't have done much for our image to be seen riding on a kiddie train.

As we came near to the end of the pier we observed a rather modernist metal clad structure with inclined glazing, "does not look much like an old slot machine arcade" said Pete. I began to think that this was indeed a less than fruitful exercise. However, when we approached this configuration of glass and steel, incongruously balanced on the Victorian iron and timber clad decking, my spirits rose and we gleefully entered the building to find my long lost childhood..... machines, slot machines, lots of penny hungry slot machines.

We bounced into the arcade with eager anticipation and with the aid of modern technology in the guise of money changing machines, we exchanged a few gracious images of Her Majesty the Queen into real money, old money, old pennies, big round and heavy. It all came back to me, that feeling of excitement, I knew we would not leave this place with any of those coins, but what the heck..... playtime was here!



Nice neat line of wall machines.

The first machine I chose was the Steer-a-Ball, I had not played on one of those for over 40 years. Crikey! I didn't realise that it was so hard, but after only one very careful attempt I actually won! (didn't get that coin Clive). I remembered Jerry's article about the steer-a-ball in M.M.M. and the bit about not letting the ball get too much momentum past the final exit gap.

Next the Kit-Kat allwin. The keyman was filling it up with Kit-Kat bars so I asked him how many times he had to fill it (Pete was impressed with my technical terminology). "On a really busy day, 5 times!" he said, "in the summer we can get over 2000 people in here on a good day" Summer, what's that? OK so I had to have a go, first coin in, gently depress the trigger to feel the tension and then tenderly flick the ball in a way that only an experienced slotty would, and..... hey I won a Kit-Kat! Must be beginners luck. Of course it was.



Pete wins yet another Kit-Kat..

The rest of the hours went by very predictably moving from one machine to another. Pete was drooling over the Edwardian porn, (sorry, mutoscope images), whilst I tried to hopelessly shift 385 stacked up pennies off the edge of the penny pusher without banging the case to shift them. (I wonder what sort of glue is used)? We then watched the working model of some poor chap having his head cut off by guillotine whilst being serenaded in the background to the dulcet tones of the laughing sailor, (and people say modern computer games are sick)! The Ahrens Hand Palmistry said we would be going on a long journey, how right it was: back down the pier again! We then had another go on the Kit-Kat allwin, won again but put more pennies in than the Kit-Kat was worth so moved on back to the penny pusher. We also fed quite a few pennies into the Bryans Payramid, (great machine) damned hard to win on that one but so much fun to play, and then on to a few other miscellaneous machines, bandits and allwins. We generally lost all our pennies, acquired more and of course lost those. But at least we came away with 3 Kit-Kat bars, (you really need to look at that machine Clive).



Pete 's hand rotating faster!



The Payramid, didn't win on this! But what a great machine.

So all-in-all a very successful and happy few hours spent in the arcade before the long trudge back down the pier. As we departed, the keyman walked by and mumbled something about "that climbing monkey game should be in a museum" We sorrowfully left the arcade and were both caressed again by the beautiful July weather, that filled our wind-proofs to gargantuan proportions with cold northern sea air, oh well at least it was behind us this time!

On a reflective note, there are quite a few nice machines in the arcade and there is a café adjacent to them, so you can restock your calories and go back to loose more money. Too many machines to mention all by name so I would recommend a visit to spend a few hours recapturing your long lost childhood, so long as your wife or partner is shopping with her own credit card. Oh well, at least I spent less than Sally, and I bet I had a much better time!!

Richard Goddard

The Cameo Auction

Well, it was a nice day out, but I didn't buy anything; what I wanted I couldn't afford, and what I could afford I didn't want. Actually, there was just one machine I should have liked to come home with: Lot 12, described as a wall mounted flickball machine, in deco style case. It sold for £300, about the right price I think, but as I was not prepared to bid beyond that, sadly, it isn't mine!

Those who have seen the catalogue will know there were some rare and interesting machines on offer at this sale, although most of the quality machines were very much for the specialist or advanced collector. Large floor standing machines are, although very desirable, of little interest to most collectors due to the space they take up in the house. Not surprisingly then, hammer prices on the whole fell well short of estimates. I was a little surprised at the number of people who actually turned up on the day; I can recall only a dozen or so collectors that I know, and although I didn't do a head-count, I doubt there were more than forty in total. This no doubt reflects the lack of interest in larger machines, however rare and desirable they may be.



Lot 12, a nice deco style wall machine.

There was however, a considerable amount of internet and telephone bidding, which always makes me nervous! Perhaps I'm just old-fashioned (or just old) but I do like to see who's bidding, and would always be wary of bidding against a telephone or computer screen. Actually, I've since learnt that some of the lots which went to internet bids did not actually sell.

So what would I have bought if I'd had the money and the space? I particularly liked the 1940s art-deco palmist machine, lot 21, which attained a hammer price of £820. I thought this was quite low, but as it was not sold in the room I cannot confirm whether it did actually sell. One of the stars of the show was lot 25, the Coin Operating Co. Electric Crystal Gazer, which sold in the room for £2500. The same buyer also went home with lot 59, the R&W piano-playing clown (which I mentioned in last month's magazine), which sold for £1700. It was described as 'requires restoration', but I thought it was in really nice original condition, and as far as I could tell required only a record for it's original record player.



Lot 21



Lot 25

Another fortune telling machine, the Ahrens Crystal Gazer (lot 46) which was described as 'one of the rarest machines to come to market in recent years' sold for £3800, and is likely to end up in a well known tourist attraction in the not too distant future.

So, were there any surprises? Perhaps the first was lot number 8, the Jamiesons Easy Push, which sold for £440. Adding 15% plus VAT took this to well over £500, which seems a lot of money for a Formica clad chipboard box. In contrast, the Bryans Bullion (lot 39), which as far as I can recall was in quite nice condition, sold for £190. Even allowing for it being on 1p play, this still seems a bargain.

Perhaps the biggest disappointment was lot 94, the Mathewson shooter, which was described as 'fully restored' – what it should have read was 'totally ruined'! The original gun had obviously been lost at some time, so a replacement had been fitted (which I believe was from a German Electra), the result being it was wrong to the point of looking ridiculous. Worse still, in order to fit the new gun, the machine had been hacked thus rendering it no more than a useless lump of cast iron. Amazingly, it attained a hammer price of £3200 – even more amazing, I later learnt it didn't actually sell.

Anyway, it was a most enjoyable day and it is always good to see a few familiar faces. It will probably be some time before we see another collection like this come to auction, so I'm glad I was there.....I just wish I'd bought something!



*Lot 8 – a snip at £517.55 including buyer's premium and VAT?
All pictures courtesy Cameo Auctioneers.*

Here are some of the prices realised at the auction. Please note that these are hammer prices to which was added 15% buyers premium plus VAT on the premium. As I've already stated, other than lots sold in the room, I cannot confirm that everything did actually sell. A full list of prices is posted in the Arena on the pennymachines website.

Lot	Description	Hammer
1	Edwin Hall motorbike kiddie ride	400
2	Tip the Skittles	200
5	Wizard countertop pinball	190
6	Oliver Whales Double Jackpot allwin	420
7	Argyll pull-draw fortune teller	300
11	Hen House egg vender	500
13	Rock-Ola Jigsaw pinball	550
15	Treasure Cave gift vender	280
18	Floor standing Love Tester	540
19	BANCo Pussy Shooter	1400
20	Spookettes working model by Animated Amusements	540
21	Floor standing Palmist fortune teller	820
22	Haydon & Urry Blow Ball	2000
23	Schall Star, floor standing roulette machine	2900
25	Electric Crystal Gazer, by Coin Operating Co.	2500
26	Oom Paul Berger 1903 electric roulette machine	3000
28	Art deco weighing scales	135
29	Cromptons New Pussy Shooter	200
30	Cromptons Shoot In	150
32	Kicking Mule shooting game	330
34	Riviera one-armed bandit	100
36	Bally Haunted Mansion one-armed bandit	200
46	Ahrens Crystal Gazer	3800
47	Pelham Puppet Theatre	740
49	Jolly Johnnies Jive Band	230
50	Genco Criss Cross pinball	190
51	Bally Bumper pinball	480
54	Bally Captain Fantastic pinball	500
56	Williams Bride of Pinbot pinball	600
59	R&W animated clown playing piano	1700
60	Williams Peppy the Clown	300
73	Target Skill, 1930s counter-top shooting game	300

Lineage ads. are free to subscribers and will run for two issues, unless you instruct me otherwise. Please ensure I have your ads. by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Remember to include your telephone number and the area where you live. Post or e-mail to the address on page 2

For Sale
Ahrens Fireman Racer.
All enquiries, please phone.

Les 07986 272509 (Essex)

For Sale
Unique 'Aeronaut' roulette wall machine, with nice balloon castings on front. Only one known. Offers invited.
R&W Ice Hockey table. £220
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Vintage Villiers Engine. £20

John 01273 608620 (Brighton)

Wanted
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Paul 07836 251065
Or 0113 2520079 Evenings

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Wiring diagram and/or any information on 'Rotofruit' e/m wall machine.

Tony 01889 565448

Wanted

Bradley Challenger in original condition. Will consider allwin as well.

Bill 01642 710834 (Middlesbrough)

For Sale

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Brian 0208 398 2141
Mobile 07973 506869.

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Rob. 01507 473639
Email: robert_rowland2001@yahoo.co.uk

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Paul 01278 782714

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Les 07905 372227 evenings

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Tony 01622 820263

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Tony 07974 460742 (Essex)
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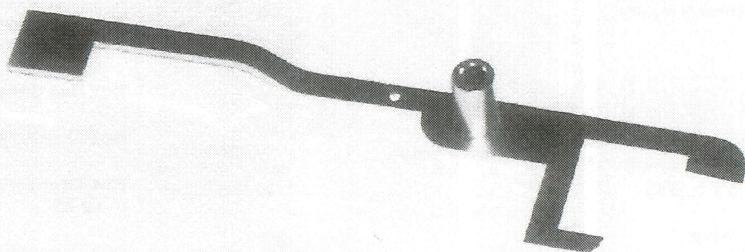
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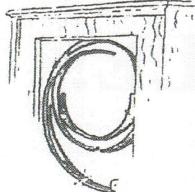
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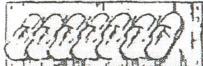
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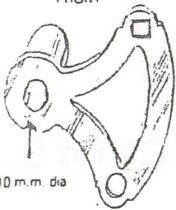


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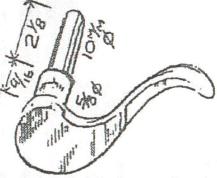


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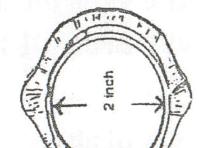


10 m.m. dia



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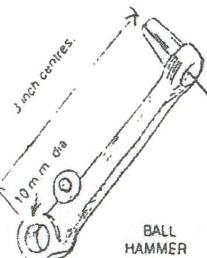


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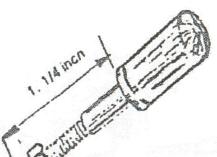
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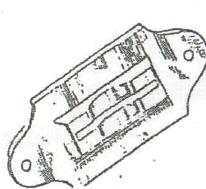
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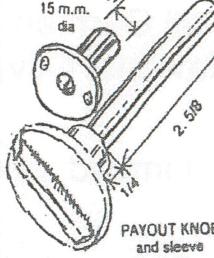
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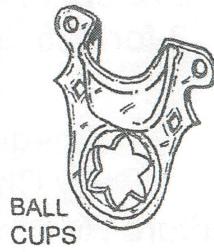


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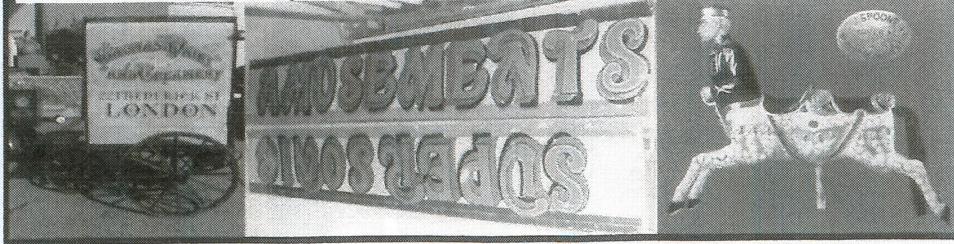
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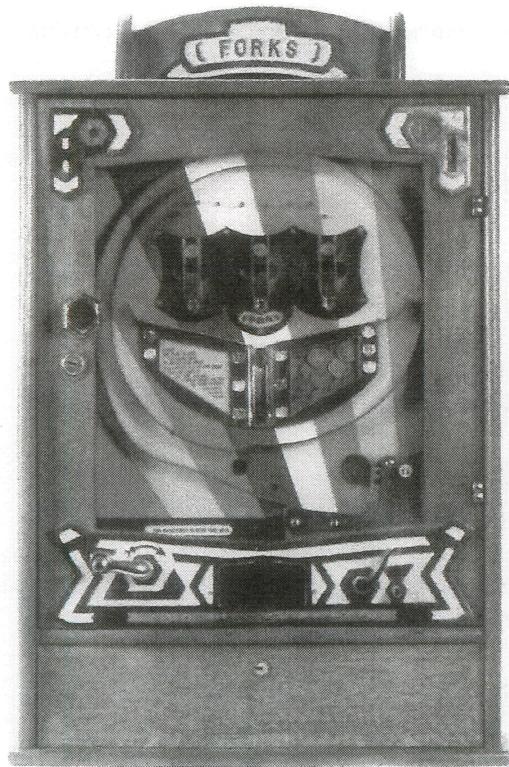


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